

dr michael chew



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CV

*"I am passionately committed to
co-designing with communities to drive
social and environmental impact"*

Key skills and experience

- **Extensive community-based co-design experience**
Developed through coordinating co-design projects with communities and partners in Australia and internationally for 15yrs+
- **Highly developed communications and community engagement skills**
Gained through designing and facilitating 200+ community workshops, events, communications campaigns and consultations with and across diverse communities
- **High-level strategic coordination and fundraising skills**
Developed through leading organisations and coordinating complex multi-stakeholder projects, securing \$3.7m+ competitive funding
- **High-quality design-based research practice and outputs**
Lead author of 10+ research publications, curated 10+ exhibitions, delivered 20+ conference presentations, conducted 100+ participatory design workshops
- **Strong inter-disciplinary, strategic systems-thinking qualifications**
PhD (Co-Design/Environment), M.Ed (Social Ecology), B.FA [Photography], B.A/B.Sc [Development Studies/Mathematical Physics]

Professional experience

• Eco-imagine Participatory Design Consultancy

Founder/Director (2008-current)

Participatory research and design, project management, writing and reporting, monitoring and evaluation, stakeholder engagement

• MARVI Project (Western Sydney University/CSIRO)

Researcher (2013-17, 2024)

Research and co-design (Australia, India, Laos, Indonesia, Timor Leste) for \$5m+ sustainable groundwater program as part of international, inter-disciplinary collaboration

- **Bendigo Sustainability Group**

Program Coordinator (2022 - 24)

Research, co-design and development, community engagement, partner engagement, grant writing

- **International Rescue Committee**

Research and Design Consultant (Food Security) (2021-22)

Participatory research/co-design (Niger, South Sudan, Syria), writings on food security, benefiting 114k households

- **Chulalongkorn University (Rotary Peace Centre)**

Rotary Peace Fellowship (2021-22)

Participatory research (Thailand, China, Australia), project management, writing (environment, peace & conflict)

- **Monash University (Department of Design)**

PhD Researcher - Participatory Design (2016-20)

'Adapting Photovoice to Visualise and Influence Environmental Behaviour across Australia, Bangladesh, and China'

Participatory research, co-design with 19 partners over 90 workshops, project management, stakeholder engagement.

- **City of Maribyrnong**

Sustainability Officer (2013-16)

Programs design & management, policy development, event management

- **Concern Universal Bangladesh**

Climate Change and Environment Specialist (2011-12)

Project design & management, participatory research (Bangladesh, India, Nepal, Bhutan, China), stakeholder engagement

- **Moreland Energy Foundation**

Community Programs Designer (2009-11)

Program design & management, community outreach, programs management, stakeholder engagement

- **Western Young People's Independent Network**

Photography Programs Coordinator (2009-10)

Youth mentorship, program and workshop design, facilitation, graphic design, stakeholder engagement

- **Environment Victoria**

Climate Change Campaigner & Grant writing Consultant (2008, 2012)

Project design & management, volunteer management, campaign planning, secured \$1.8m grant

- **Friends of Kolkata Australia**

International Volunteer Coordinator (2006-07)

Program and events design and implementation, international volunteer training and support

Co-founder/Director (2005-06)

Strategic planning, coordination, partner relations, project management, negotiation, grant writing

- **Victorian College of the Arts Student Union**

Chief Executive Officer (2006)

Strategic planning, staff and financial management, organisational spokesperson

Environment Officer (2004)

Environmental program design, digital media creation, events management

- **Melbourne Environmental Arts Festival**

Co-founder and Director (2004-5)

Strategic planning and development for multi-venue festival, volunteer, exhibition and stakeholder engagement

Co-design Projects/Exhibitions

Year	Name	Type	Role	Partners/Location	Details
2023-4	Stories to Action	Co-design project	Coordinator	Bendigo Sustainability Group/Department of Environment, Energy and Climate Action	Youth co-designed local environmental video training program.
2006-8	Future Visions Quilt Program	Co-design project	Lead Designer	Sustainable Living Festival/Brunswick Uniting Church/CERES Environment Centre, Melbourne, Australia	Large-scale community-created collaborative quilts showing hand-painted positive future visions.
2022	Stories for Change II	Co-design project	Lead Designer	Hong Kong University, Online/Global	Youth co-designed global environmental video program.
2021	Stories for Change I	Co-design project	Lead Designer	Chulalongkorn University Peace Centre, Online/Global	Global online youth co-designed environmental leadership and storytelling workshops.
2020	Portraits of Change IV	Exhibition	Lead Curator	MADA Gallery, Melbourne, Australia	Final PhD exhibition (externally examined)
2017	Portraits of Change III	Exhibition	Lead Curator	Docklands Library, Melbourne, Australia	Interim PhD exhibition
2016	Portraits of Change II	Exhibition	Lead Curator	MADA space, Monash University, Melbourne, Australia	Interim PhD exhibition
2016	Portraits of Change I	Exhibition	Lead Curator	Coburg Library, Melbourne, Australia	Interim PhD exhibition
2015	Maribyrnong Environmental Leaders Program	Co-design project	Lead Designer	City of Maribyrnong / Environment Victoria, Melbourne, Australia	Three month based multi-cultural environmental leadership program where participants teamed up to make their own creative storytelling project to educate their communities.
2014	Buried Words	Exhibition	Lead Curator	Melbourne Fringe Festival Footscray Library, Melbourne, Australia	Community arts project collecting participants anonymously shared repressed feelings and stories, exhibited through hidden in books in a library/online
2014	Small Worlds	Exhibition	Lead Curator	City of Maribyrnong Footscray Library, Melbourne, Australia	Community-based micro-scale recycled environmental art competition.
2010	Cultural Footprint Pledge	Co-design project	Lead Designer	Sustainable Living Festival, Melbourne, Australia	Public intervention series supporting people to develop and commit to their own specific community environmental action.
2010	Youth Voices Medan	Co-design project	Lead Designer	International Humanity Foundation, Medan, Indonesia	Creative youth community development program encompassing photography, community mapping, and collaborative quilt-making.
2010	Arte Moris Digital Imaging Workshops	Co-design project	Lead Designer	Arte Moris Cultural Centre, Dili, East Timor	Workshop series ran with local Timorese artists to build digital imaging skills.
2010	Horace Petty Social Atlas	Co-design project	Lead Designer	Port Phillip Community Group/City of Stonnington, Melbourne, Australia	Creative participatory action-research project exploring and showcasing community assets within a social housing estate.
2009	OurMelbourn e2050	Co-design project	Lead Designer	Sustainable Living Festival/LiveFutures Festival, Melbourne/Sydney, Australia	Pop-up large-scale community map supporting people to ideate and contribute their future environmental hopes.
2009	Youth Water Vision Workshops	Co-design project	Lead Designer	Melbourne Water, Melbourne, Australia	Creative workshops supporting youth to develop and co-design their ideas for water sensitive urban development.
2009-11	Our Footscray, Our Visions	Exhibition	Lead Curator	Melbourne City Mission/Western Young People's Independent Network Phoenix Youth Centre, Melbourne, Australia	Three year project supporting multi-cultural youth to develop photographs and stories showing their relationships to community and place.
2009	iMap	Exhibition	Creative Coordinator	Melbourne Fringe Festival City Library, Melbourne, Australia	Large scale community emotion map crowd-sourcing participants feelings across Melbourne CBD over a month.
2008	FutureLab	Co-design project	Creative Coordinator	City of Melbourne, Melbourne, Australia	Two day creative multi-modal youth civic consultation workshops spanning future-visioning to policy formulation.
2007	Choose Your Own Library Adventure	Exhibition	Creative Coordinator	MUDfest, Melbourne University Baillieu Library, Melbourne, Australia	Branching non-linear 'choose your own adventure' style storytelling photo-story narrative hidden in amongst the Baillieu university library.
2007	Through Different Eyes	Exhibition	Lead Curator	MUDfest, Melbourne University George Paton Gallery	Exhibition based on workshops with children from Kolkata, India through partnerships with local NGOs and India/Australia cultural exchange programs.
2005	India within, India without	Exhibition	Lead Curator	City of Moreland/VCASU Irene Community Arts Warehouse, Melbourne, Australia	Exhibition based on workshops with children from Kolkata, India through partnerships with local NGOs and India/Australia cultural exchange programs.

Selected creative projects documentation can be found at ecoimagine.org/projects

Community-led project documentation

Documentation of previous field projects:



Assessing feasibility of urban agriculture as climate adaptation in urban 'slum' areas, Dhaka, Bangladesh.



Evaluation/documentation of environmental education program, Kathmandu, Nepal.



Leading recruitment of partner organisations for regional-level Community Managed Disaster Risk Reduction program, Chengdu, China



Participatory planning for climate adaptation village-level activities, rural Bangladesh.



Delivering cross-cultural climate resilience storytelling workshop series, Beijing, China



Coordinating a groundwater sustainability photovoice workshop series, Rajasthan, India



PIU research through coordinating participatory photography Dhaka, Bangladesh

Documentation from selected participatory storytelling projects:

Photography Workshops (Medan, Indonesia, 2009)



Photography Workshops (Kolkata, India, 2006-7)



Photography Workshops (Kolkata, India, 2004-5)



OurMelbourne2050 (community mapping project, Melbourne, 2009)



FutureLab (Youth visioning workshop, Melbourne, 2008)



Academic and Professional Development

Qualifications

Doctor of Philosophy (Co-Design)	Monash University, 2020
Master of Education (Social Ecology)	Western Sydney University, 2013
Postgraduate Diploma (Peace Studies)	Chulalongkorn University, 2022
Bachelor of Visual Art (Photography)	Victorian College of the Arts, 2007
Bachelor of Arts (Environment Studies)	University of Melbourne, 2003
Bachelor of Science (Mathematical Physics)	University of Melbourne, 2001

Awards, Prizes and Scholarships

Australian Postgraduate Award	Monash University, 2015
Vice-Chancellor's Excellence Award (Sustainability)	University of Western Sydney, 2013
Dean's Merit List (Sustainability)	University of Western Sydney, 2010
Relt Trust Award (Photography)	Victorian College of the Arts Student Union, 2005
Commonwealth Learning Scholarship	Victorian College of the Arts, 2004
Melbourne Arts Merit Scholarships	University of Melbourne, 2001
Melbourne Abroad Scholarship	University of Melbourne, 2000
Melbourne Global U21 Scholarship	University of Melbourne, 2000
Melbourne Engineering Merit Scholarships	University of Melbourne, 1998

Professional Development/Fellowships

Rotary Positive Peace Activator – Oceania	Rotary –IEP Partnership, 2024
Fellow, Georg Arnold Program	Georg Eckert Institute-Airbel Impact Lab, 2022
Fellow, Emerging Leaders Forum	Inner Climate Academy, 2021
Fellow, AsiaLink Leaders Program	AsiaLink, 2009
Fellow, Centre for Sustainability Leadership	Centre for Sustainability Leadership, 2007

Computer and design skills

Advanced skills with Microsoft applications such as Word, Excel, PowerPoint
Advanced skills with Google applications such as Docs, Sheets, Forms, Jamboard
Advanced image, design, and video skills with Adobe Creative Cloud applications such as Photoshop, Lightroom, InDesign, Premiere Pro

Co-design Project documentation can be found at: ecoimagine.org/projects

Referees available on request

Participatory Research Publications

- Chew, M. (2024). Environmental photo-storytelling: potentials for bridging gaps in environmental and peace education. *Journal of Peace Education*, 20.
- House, J., Amaral, N. M., Silva de Jesus, J., Gomes, J., Chew, M., ... & Stacey, N. (2024). Women's experiences of participatory small-scale fisheries monitoring in Timor-Leste. *Maritime Studies*, 23(1), 9.
- Chew, M. (2023). Waste through different eyes - multi-sited photovoice explorations, in *Waste Now! Histories and Contemporarities of Discards*, Routledge.
- Chew, M. (2023). Stories from, and between the other side, in *Creative Approaches to Climate and Peace Education: An educator's guide to using storytelling and art*, Georg Eckert Press.
- Chew, M. (2023). Seeing within, without, across and between; stories from cross-cultural photographic exchange. *Swamphen: a Journal of Cultural Ecology*, 9.
- Chew, M. (2022). Pass the parcel: visualizing environmental action across global sites. In *Proceedings of the Participatory Design Conference 2022-Volume 2* (pp. 300-302).
- Chew, M. (2022). Co-creation in fragile contexts: Guidance Paper, *International Rescue Commission*, New York.
- Chew, M. (2020). Portraits of Change: Photo-Storytelling Across Bangladesh, China and Australia. *Swamphen: a Journal of Cultural Ecology*, 7.
- Chew, M. (2020). Adapting Photovoice to Visualise and Influence Environmental Behaviour across Australia, Bangladesh, and China. [Doctoral dissertation, Monash University].
- Chew, M., Maheshwari, B., & Somerville, M. (2019). Photovoice for understanding groundwater management issues and challenges of villagers in Rajasthan, India. *Groundwater for Sustainable Development*, 8, 134-143.
- Chew, M., Maheshwari, B. L., Purohit, R., Oza, S., Dashora, Y., Jadeja, Y., ... & Packham, R. G. (2019). Groundwater Stories: Villagers Share Their Voices. Western Sydney University.
- Chew, M. (2018). Portraits Of Change: Learnings From Photo-Storytelling Across Bangladesh, China And Australia. *Eingana – Journal of Environmental Education*, 41, 20-26.
- Jadeja, Y., Maheshwari, B. L., Packham, R. G., Bohra, H., Purohit, R., Thaker, B., ... & Chew, M. (2018). Managing aquifer recharge and sustaining groundwater use: developing a capacity building program for creating local groundwater champions. *Sustainable Water Resources Management*, 317-329.
- Chew, M. (2016). Portraits of Change: Glimpses Of Community Through A Multi-Country Climate 'Photovoice' Project *Eingana – Journal of Environmental Education*, 39, 23-28.
- Chew, M. (2015). Cracks in a Paved Mirror: The Eco-Phenomenological Dimensions of Contemporary Urbanisation in Asia. *Spaces and Flows: International Journal of Urban and ExtraUrban Studies*, 6, 51-64.
- Chew, M. (2014). Portraits of Water - Participatory photography in Rajasthan. [Masters dissertation, Western Sydney University].
- Maheshwari, B., Varua, M., Ward, J., Packham, R., Chinnasamy, P., Dashora Y., ... & Chew, M. (2014). The role of transdisciplinary approach and community participation in village scale groundwater management: insights from Gujarat and Rajasthan, India. *Int Open Access J Water* 6 (6): 3386–3408.
- Chew, M. (2012). Bangladesh: Land and People. Asia Pacific Photobook Archive.